United Nations A/AC.259/L.13

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
4 April 2012

Original: English

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Thirteenth meeting
29 May-1 June 2012

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods by resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods by resolutions 63/111 and 65/37.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 3 April 2012, the Co-Chairs, Don MacKay (New Zealand) and Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius), developed a format for the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Consultative Process (see annex I) and are proposing a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Marine renewable energies" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider, in particular by reference to the addendum to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (to be issued as A/67/79/Add.1).

4. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

12-28427 (E) 130412

Please recycle

Annex I

Format for the thirteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the thirteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33 and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a draft agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The draft agenda will take into account paragraphs 226, 228 and 234 of General Assembly resolution 66/231. The thirteenth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 231 of resolution 65/37 A, as recalled in paragraph 234 of resolution 66/231, the General Assembly decided that the meeting would focus its discussions on the topic entitled "Marine renewable energies". On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs will propose an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the thirteenth meeting

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the General Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Tuesday, 29 May 2012 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the thirteenth meeting

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, Patricia O'Brien, and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Sha Zukang, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the thirteenth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that during the general exchange of views delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the thirteenth meeting, "Marine renewable energies".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel
Marine renewable energies: types, uses and role in sustainable development

6. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment commence with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

[a] All meetings will commence promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Segment 1
Marine renewable energies: types, uses and role in sustainable development

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 30 May 2012 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2
Ongoing or planned marine renewable energies projects/work at the global and regional levels

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 3
Opportunities and challenges in the development of marine renewable energies, including for cooperation and coordination

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Thursday, 31 May 2012 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

7. The Coordinator of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (UN-Oceans), the inter-agency mechanism for cooperation and coordination, will be invited to provide information on the activities of UN-Oceans, including in relation to the topic of focus.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

8. The Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 228 of resolution 66/231 that the Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea. Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

9. The Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of part C of the reports on the

work of the Consultative Process from its fourth to twelfth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164 and A/66/186). The Co-Chairs will inform the Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the thirteenth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benef[illegible] from attention in the future work of the General Assembly.

3-6 p.m.[a]

[*Reserved*]

Friday, 1 June 2012 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

10. The Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the draft format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome of the meeting will consist of the Co-Chairs' summary of the issues and ideas raised during the plenary sessions, including with respect to devising a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists, so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly, and of the issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel on the topic of focus.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "Marine renewable energies"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided in resolution 65/37 A, and recalled in resolution 66/231, that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the thirteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the topic entitled "Marine renewable energies". At the request of the Co-Chairs of the meeting, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea will make available on its website (www.un.org/Depts/los/index/html) by early April 2012, for the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, advance and unedited reporting material on oceans and the law of the sea relating to the topic of focus of the thirteenth meeting.

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 66/231, recognized the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. The Assembly also recognized the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

3. In considering the topic of focus, it is therefore proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) Marine renewable energies: types, uses and role in sustainable development

4. This panel segment could: (a) provide an overview of the various types of marine renewable energy technologies; (b) consider what uses are currently made of marine renewable energies and their extent; and (c) highlight the role of marine renewable energies in sustainable development, including economic development, social development and environmental protection.

(b) Ongoing or planned marine renewable energies projects/work at the global and regional levels

5. This panel segment could provide information on ongoing or planned marine renewable energies projects/work at the global and regional levels. In particular, it could focus on success stories and best practices in cooperative marine renewable energy developments.

(c) Opportunities and challenges in the development of marine renewable energies, including for cooperation and coordination

6. This panel segment could address opportunities and challenges related to marine renewable energies, including in relation to the economic, commercial, financial, environmental and social perspectives and impacts for all Member States, bearing in mind in particular developing countries, including small island developing States. Other implications in relation to the development of marine renewable energy may also arise. This segment could also draw attention to issues relating to capacity-building and technology transfer, including needs of, and available programmes of assistance for, developing countries.